

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 4, 2014) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kyler Murray of Allen High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Texas Football Player of the Year. Murray is the first Gatorade Texas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Allen High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Murray as Texas's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Murray joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Wes Welker (1999-00, Heritage Hall HS, Okla.), Terrell Suggs (1999-00, Hamilton HS, Ariz.), Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 5-foot-11, 176-pound senior quarterback has led the Eagles to a 13-0 record and a berth in the Class 6A, Division I state quarterfinals, scheduled for Dec. 6. The state's returning Gatorade Football Player of the Year threw for 3,563 yards and 40 touchdowns on 207-of-333 passing (62 percent) through 13 games. A returning First Team All-USA selection as named by USA TODAY, Murray also rushed for 1,291 yards and 25 touchdowns on 114 carries entering the state playoff round of eight. A 2015 Under Armour All-America Game selection and 2014 Elite 11 quarterback camp finalist, Murray led Allen to back-to-back Class 5A, Division I state titles as a sophomore and junior, capturing state championship game MVP honors each season. He enters the state quarterfinals with a 39-0 record as Allen's starting quarterback.

Murray has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football instructor, he has volunteered locally as part of the Reading with the Eagles youth literacy-outreach and anti-bullying programs. He also serves as a mentor to several student team managers with special needs.

"He's dominant," said Jaydon McCullough, head coach of rival Plano High. "When you think that you've got him on third and long or when the game is on the line, he changes the outcome. He has great character, and to me that means he's only going to get better. I've coached a lot of great players, and the ones who've gotten better had great character. Plus, Kyler has a burning desire to be the best. I'm happy to see him go, to be honest. I was watching him against DeSoto, and all I kept thinking was, 'Thankfully, we don't have to deal with him anymore.' Allen is always going to be great, but Kyler Murray just doesn't know how to lose."

Murray has verbally committed to play football on scholarship at Texas A&M beginning in the fall of 2015.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Murray joins Gatorade Texas Football Players of the Year Kenny Hill (2012-13, Southlake Carroll High School), Johnathan Gray (2011-12 & 2010-11, Aledo High School), Scotty Young (2009-10, Billy Ryan), Garrett Gilbert (2008-09, Lake Travis High School) and Riley Dodge (2007-08, Southlake Carroll) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

###